

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair is obviously supporting partisan issues and labeling them as "news". Their refusal to air the show Nightline "The Fallen" which respectfully read the names and showed pictures of our honored soldiers from the Iraq conflict was pulled as propaganda. Since when is a respectful recitation of our war dead "propaganda"? I was fortunate enough to live in a market where I could view the Nightline show and did not miss it. I wanted to watch to show my respect for their service and ultimate sacrifice to our country. I formerly lived near the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, VA and wanted to look at the faces to see if I recognized anyone. How dare they consider this propaganda and INSIST upon playing a piece about Senator Kerry that is clearly a partisan continuation of the Swift Boat slander ad campaign? The FCC must respect the true owners of the airwaves and prohibit this exhibition of the most vile and problematic example of partisanship being labeled news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to provide for sanctions or license revocation, rather than an ineffective slap on the wrist. Thank you.